

LEWIS MECHAM AND WIVES,  
VASTIA EMILY JOHNSON  
AND ESTHER HERBERT



Lewis Mecham was born December 18, 1835, at Mercer, Pa., the son of Ephraim Mecham and Polly Derby. With his parents he lived through all the trials in Missouri and during the trek to Utah. He married Vastia Emily Johnson, daughter of Luke Johnson and Susan Pettitt, Salt Lake City, Utah. She was born September 4, 1842 at Kirtland, Lake County, Ohio. She died January 19, 1865, at Rush Valley, Tooele County, Utah. Lewis later married Esther Herbert. She was born February 12, 1851 at Mitchel-Troy, Monmouth, England, a daughter of Thomas Roland Herbert and Esther Lewis. Lewis Mecham died October 14, 1907, and Esther April 19, 1934, both at Wallsburg and they are both buried there.

Lewis and Vastia Mecham came West in 1862 by ox team and settled in Rush Valley with a Johnson family. Here their son Lewis Lafayette Mecham was born on September 30, 1862. Vastia died in 1865. In the spring, Lewis saddled up his horse and with his earthly belongings and his 2 and a half year old son, Lewis "Lafaye" behind him on the saddle, he rode into Provo to his parents' home. They all moved to Wallsburg shortly after.

Here Lewis met Esther Herbert, who was to become his second wife. She was 18½ years old when they were married. They settled on a little farm in Wallsburg. Pre-emption rights were given first, later homestead rights. They homesteaded a farm on Provo River also. This site is under the

Deer Creek Reservoir now. The place on the Provo River had a little lake on it called Lewis Lake, after Lewis Mecham. Esther took "Lafaye" and mothered him as her own. They had a large family and many trials and tribulations, but the Lord blessed them mightily.

When Esther Herbert arrived with her mother, Esther Lewis Herbert, in Wallsburg, they lived in a small fort at the head of spring, so they could use the beautiful clear water. This was for protection from Indians.

After her marriage to Lewis Mecham, their first home was made of cottonwood logs with a dirt floor. The only window was a log that was left out during the day to let the light in. It was put back in place at night to keep the cold out. The fireplace, used for cooking and heating, was made of rocks. Later Lewis Mecham built a large granary and they moved into this. When he threshed he had a bin for the grain in one end of the granary. They built their beds on top of the bin, using mattresses of straw. They also used pillows and feather beds filled with wild duck feathers. One time they had a "bad year," so had to take the straw out of the mattresses to feed the livestock.

Esther was terribly frightened of Indians. When they were living on the Provo River and Lewis had to be away from home, she would take the small children and go up in the foothills until Lewis came home. One day the Indians came into her home and caught her by surprise. The collar of her garments was sticking up above her dress. The Indians, seeing this, said, "Mormon, Mormon," and went away without harming her in any way.

Esther had a very patient disposition. After they were grown, all her children used to go home to visit "mother" on Sunday. While the older folks visited, the grandchildren built playhouses in the willows along the creek. None will ever forget Grandma Esther's good bread, butter and currant jelly sandwiches and her special "English tea biscuits."

During her last few years she lost her eyesight. She was always very patient about it while she had to sit in her big leather-covered rocking chair, until she died when 83 years old.

long counselor to  
for 22 years. He  
not was set apart  
Each Sunday the  
go up to grand  
or prayer circle.  
Mecham Smith  
ever tried for any  
lived there later  
just a little bit  
always seemed

veteran of the  
Indian wars.

Fisher went to  
Provo River, the  
and started to run  
surprise and he  
making his head  
conscious for quite  
of his head, about  
ever was well after  
of a cerebral hemi-  
stroke. He lived  
in service to the  
Lord and was always  
the example to his  
children and associates.

Their children: Luke Rollin, Orson, Elmer, Polly, George Fayette, Emma Naomi, Ephraim L., Sarah E., Marquis Herbert, Mary Elvira, Gib Ami, Perselia Viola, Beret Rurton and Alice Marinda.

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Married Vasta Johnson (daughter of Luke Johnson). Their

child: Lafayette (deceased), m. Sarah Ann Richens.

Married Ester Herbert. Their children: Luke R.; Polly Esther; Orson; George Fayette, m. Ida Viola Boren; Emma Naomi; Ephraim Liberty; Marquis Herbert; Mary; Gib Ami; Burnet; Alice. Family home Wallsburg, Utah.

Seventy; second counselor to Bishop Braghton at Wallsburg, Utah. Veteran of the Black Hawk and the Walker Indian wars, and also took part in the Johnston army trouble. Farmer. Died Oct. 14, 1907.

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